

# **Big Game Records Newsletter**

## **April 2007**

The Louisiana Big Game Records Program was initiated in 1979 to document and recognize outstanding specimens of white-tailed deer and Eastern Wild Turkeys. The White-tailed Deer Category recognizes deer killed with bow & arrow, modern firearms and muzzleloaders. Deer are scored and classified as either Typical or Non-Typical deer. Minimum entry scores for the Louisiana Big Game Records State List are as follows:

- 110- Bow and Arrow, Typical
- 130- Bow and Arrow, Non-Typical
- 160- Gun, Typical
- 185- Gun, Non-Typical
- 120- Muzzleloader, Typical
- 150- Muzzleloader, Non-Typical
- 40- Eastern Wild Turkey

There are official state measurers in each of the seven LDWF wildlife regions across the state, which can score deer for the Louisiana Program as well as the Boone & Crockett and Pope & Young record programs.

In 1992 the Louisiana Big Game Recognition Program was initiated to recognize quality deer killed each season and that may not score high enough for the state record list. This list gives managers insight as to what parishes in the state are producing quality deer and have the potential for producing trophy deer.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Recognition Program included the years 1992-1994. The 5<sup>th</sup> Recognition Program, 2004-2006 ended on December 31, 2006 and the publication for this recognition period will be produced in the fall of 2007. Minimum entry scores for the Louisiana Recognition Program are as follows:

- 90- Bow and Arrow, Typical
- 100- Bow and Arrow, Non-Typical
- 130- Gun, Typical
- 165- Gun, Non-Typical
- 110- Muzzleloader, Typical
- 130- Muzzleloader, Non-Typical
- 40- Eastern Wild Turkey

Deer and turkey killed during the years 2007-2009, which meet or exceed the minimum score, will be included in the 6<sup>th</sup> Recognition Program. Copies of the Big Game Recognition Programs are available from the LDWF Deer Program.

## **2006/07 Big Buck Harvest**

It appears that deer growth and antler development was good during the spring and summer of 2006 based upon the number of deer that have been officially scored since the close of the 2006/07 season. To date nineteen deer have been officially measured and qualify for either the State Record List or the Big Game Records Recognition Program list (Table I). No doubt as taxidermists complete the task of mounting deer heads for clients more deer will be added to the list. Table II is the list of the top ten bucks killed on the wildlife management areas this past season. Their rank is based on a computer program that utilizes just a few antler measurements in the calculation of this ranking. Hopefully more of these wma deer will be brought in for scoring and recognition. The three buck limit initiated during the 2006/07 season may have caused some hunters to think twice before pulling the trigger on a small buck.

**Table I, 2006/07 Deer Season, Big Buck Kill**

<u>Score</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Hunter</u>	<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
142 6/8	Caddo	10/21/06	Terry Shields	Muzzleloader	Area 2
140 5/8	Claiborne	10/21/06	Ronald Hooper	Muzzleloader	Area 2
152	EBR	10/13/06	Alton Cook	Bow	Area 1
139 4/8	Catahoula	11/20/06	Dolan Pendaruis	Bow	Area 1
141 1/8	St. Landry	12/03/06	Will Hollier	Gun	Area 6, nine year old
133 5/8	Caddo	11/05/06	John Kuchar	Gun	Area 2
177 7/8	East Carroll	12/01/06	Louis Lambiotre	Bow	Area 4, Non-typical
132 1/8	WBR	11/01/06	James White	Bow	Area 6
180	Grant	10/28/06	Shane Spears	Gun	Area 2, new #7 Typical List
141 5/8	Tensas	12/01/06	Chris Bordelon	Muzzleloader	Tensas River NWR
130 7/8	Avoyelles	12/23/06	William Shockey	Bow	Area 6
124 4/8	Avoyelles	12/15/06	Danny Barzare	Bow	Area 6
151 6/8	Bienville	12/18/06	Ronnie Veitch	Gun	Area 2
149 5/8	Pointe Coupee	12/23/06	Terry Dupuy	Gun	Area 6
125 3/8	Pointe Coupee	01/23/07	Skull with antlers found on Sherburne WMA		
102	Avoyelles	01/21/07	Dusty Bernard	Bow	Area 6
172	St. Landry	12/23/06	Louis McGee	Gun	Area 6, Non-typical
144 5/8	Madison	11/24/06	Herb Holloway	Gun	Area 1
120 6/8	Pointe Coupee	01/16/07	Shane Leger	Muzzleloader	Sherburne WMA

## **Table II, WMA Big Buck List, 2006/07**

Sherburne WMA- 250 pound 8 point with 21" main beams and 18" inside spread  
Lake Ophelia NWR- 230 pound 6 point with 21" main beams and 22" inside spread  
Boeuf WMA- 192 pound 8 point with 22" main beams and 21" inside spread  
Bayou Macon WMA- 240 pound 8 point with 23" main beams and 20" inside spread  
Thistlethwaite WMA- 182 pound 12 point with 24" main beams and 15" inside spread  
Grassy Lake WMA- 224 pound 12 point with 20" main beams and 16" inside spread  
Boeuf WMA- 190 pound 9 point with 20" main beams and 21" inside spread  
Red River WMA- 222 pound 8 point with 24" main beams and 20" inside spread  
Union WMA- 188 pound 9 point with 24" main beams and 19" inside spread  
Thistlethwaite WMA- 205 pound 8 point with 21" main beams and 17" inside spread

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### **Todd Tracy Buck, 2005/06 Season**

The January 2007 issue of North American Whitetail contained an article about a fine non-typical white-tail killed in Louisiana by Todd Tracy. Todd is a First Sargent with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He killed this giant Louisiana buck, referred to in the article as the "man", in Red River Parish on December 20, 2005 while home on Christmas leave.

I was fortunate to measure this buck at the 2006 Hunters Expo in Shreveport. The buck had twenty-five measurable points. The main beams were 24 1/8 and 26 2/8 inches long, with an inside spread of 25 6/8". The total score of all the abnormal points was 48 7/8 which, when added to the typical score (minus deductions), resulted in a final score of 223 1/8. This buck ranks as the number six buck on the State Non-Typical List for gun killed deer. The buck has been accepted for listing in the Boone and Crockett Record Book.

Todd is to be congratulated for this achievement. A true Boone and Crockett buck represents less than one percent of the total buck kill in Louisiana. The dedication and commitment that Todd has for his country and the cause of freedom is a much greater reason for recognizing Todd. We at LDWF are very proud of the men and women who bravely serve to protect our freedoms.

David Moreland

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## Deer from the Past

No doubt many of you have seen an old deer head hanging on the wall above the fireplace in a camp. Some of them may have a Sam Touchstone label on the back of the mounting board. Our friend and an official measurer in Lafayette, Dr. George Dugal, sent this photograph of a deer killed in the late sixties on Turnbull Island. The deer was killed by the late Captain Charlie Hardiston and weighed 325 pounds. George killed one that weighed 308 pounds a few weeks earlier than this one on the same area.



Another deer from the past is this large non-typical killed in Caddo Parish around 1878. Robert Page of Keithville, La. is the great grandson of the hunter, Dan Dodez. The buck was killed in that area of downtown Shreveport that is now the Oakland Cemetery. The buck scored 182 4/8.

Previous family owners had painted the antlers gold. Robert had a new cape put on this fine specimen. It is the oldest Louisiana white-tail that has been scored for the Louisiana Record Program.



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## **Deer Tagging in 2007/08**

Last year hunters were introduced to the idea of deer tagging with the Deer Tag Harvest Card. The Wildlife Division has been busy sorting through these harvest cards and documenting the harvest from cards submitted by hunters. This has been a very labor intense project and we appreciate the hard work of Janelle Langlois, Judith Heintze, Selena Gardner, Michelle Gonzales and Robert Spruill.

The purpose of the harvest card was to simply introduce hunters to deer tagging and the idea that when a hunter kills a deer, the hunter has to do something to document the kill. During the 2007/08 season all deer hunters will obtain tags prior to hunting. When a deer is killed the hunter must do the following:

- attach the appropriate carcass tag to the deer (either an antlered buck tag or an antlerless deer tag)
- document the date of kill on the License
- call and report the kill
- record the validation number on the license as proof of having reported the kill.

During the 2007/08 Hunting Season all deer hunters, regardless of age or license status, will obtain deer tags prior to hunting. Hunters will be issued three antlered buck tags and three antlerless deer tags. Tags will be specific for each individual hunter and cannot be transferred to another hunter. Except for a few parishes the antlerless deer tags can be used during the entire deer season.

Deer harvest reporting and validation will provide LDWF with current harvest information that will be used for making sound management decisions. Turkey tagging will begin in 2008. Currently we have a one-year delay in obtaining turkey harvest estimates. For instance hunters are just now being surveyed to determine their hunting effort and kill during the 2006 Turkey Season. The 2008 turkey tagging and harvest reporting will give biologists immediate turkey harvest numbers by parish and will enable biologists to identify potential needs or problems.

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## **Youth Deer Hunter Registry**

The LDWF Deer Program along with the Big Game Records Program will initiate a deer registry for youth hunters beginning with the 2007/08 season. Youth hunters, 15 years of age or younger, can register their deer, buck or doe, large or small, with LDWF. LDWF will recognize these youth hunters, especially those who may have killed their first deer. This registry will be located on the department website ([www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov)) at the site containing the Louisiana Big Game Records. Youth hunters can also mail photographs of their deer to the Big Game Program at LDWF, PO Box 98000, BR, LA, 70898, Attention: LA Big Game Records.

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## **2007 WMA Turkey Season is Productive**

Both the youth hunts and the regular turkey season hunts on the state wildlife management areas were very successful. Wildlife Division biologists Larry Savage and Fred Kimmel, who coordinate the turkey program, believe this success is due to the good

2005 hatch. The Louisiana Big Game Records Program has a turkey category for trophy toms. Only the spur length and width is used in the Louisiana scoring system. Generally a spur that is over one inch long will qualify for listing in the LA records. Hunters who think they have killed a trophy tom should contact their local wildlife office. Just like deer antlers, spurs have to air dry for sixty days before they can be officially scored.



Successful youth hunters on West Bay WMA. Photo courtesy of John Robinette